

Washburn Receives NWA Leadership Award

Mary Washburn, the Nutrition Services Coordinator and Breastfeeding Coordinator in the Bureau of Children, Youth and Families' Nutrition and WIC Services Section, has received the National WIC Association's Leadership Award. She is the first person from Kansas to receive this prestigious award.

The award was presented at the National WIC Association's 2005 Annual meeting in St. Louis. Four awards were presented. Washburn was recognized for her professional contributions at the state and regional level. She has worked for the WIC program since 1985 and before that worked for 20 years as a dietitian in the clinical setting. She has been a tireless leader and advocate for breastfeeding and was instrumental in establishing a lactation room in the Curtis State Office Building.

Washburn is active in the Kaw Area Breastfeeding Coalition and is the Kansas representative to the Association of State and Territorial Public Health Nutrition Directors, and has been a mentor to WIC Nutritionists throughout Kansas along with having a great influence on the quality of nutrition services provided to Kansans.

Other recipients of the 2005 Leadership award were Anita Owen of Scottsdale Ariz., an early pioneer in the WIC program; Gotham, Inc., of New York, N.Y., the creators of an outstanding advertising campaign for the WIC Program; and Gayle Shockey-Hoxter of Riverside, Calif., the program chief of the Riverside County Community Health Agency.



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